

## REMARKS

### Claims

The claims have been amended to substitute “tube” for “pipe” in the claims to more closely reflect the original Japanese of the International application. Claim 7 was amended to substitute “wherein” for “characterized in that” consistent with US custom with regard to claim format. Claim 14 was also amended to correct a typographical error in use of the word “claims” instead of “claim.” No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

The Applicant submits that the claims are in a condition to permit allowance and request early and favorable disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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